BYPASSING THE BALTS. Kaliningrad officials have urged Moscow to invest in its ports in order to "enable Russia in the very near future to partially do without the services of the costly ports" in the Baltic countries, Segodnya reported May 17. The proposal came at a meeting in Kaliningrad between local leaders and representatives of Russia's central regions.

ARMS DONATED TO LITHUANIA - ELTA - This past Monday, the Lithuanian military received a donation of weapons from the Czech Republic in the amount of 2 million Czech Krone. The donation is significant in that it is the first time military arms have been given to Lithuania.

Previous donations from the Western states were limited to all kinds of equipment to be used by the armed forces, such as means of transportation and communication, munition, etc., whereas weapons had to be purchased. The donated equipment includes special testing equipment, measurement, control and illumination devices, radio stations, vehicles, mortars, machine-guns and launchers.

LITHUANIAN FRIGATE AT INTERNATIONAL NAVAL EXERCISES VILNIUS, May 16, ELTA - According to the Lithuanian Law on Participation of Lithuanian Detachments at International Operations, the Zemaitis light frigate with a crew of 65 persons took part in the "Amber Sea-95" joint Baltic military exercises from Tuesday to Friday. This frigate is also to participate in the "Baltops-95" international naval exercises to be held June 6-10 as part of the NATO Partnerhsip for Peace programme.

NUMBER OF PHONES TO INCREASE BY A THIRD TILL 2000 VILNIUS, May 17, ELTA - Secretary of the Lithuanian Communication Ministry Gintautas Pangonis said on Wednesday that plans are being made to increase the number of telephones in Lithuania by 33% between now and the year 2000. Pangonis made the remark at a news conference held on the occasion of Telecommunication Day.

At present Lithuania boasts 26.1 telephones per 100 persons; of post-Communist countries, only Slovenia, Latvia and Bulgaria have more telephones. In order to achieve the goal of 40 phones per hundred, Lithuanian communication services need to install about 350 thousand new telephone lines.